

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2
INTRODUCED BY GALVIN-HALCRO

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4 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNIZING
5 THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF UNITED STATES SEAGOING MARINES AND THE NAVAL CRUISE
6 SHIP, USS HELENA, AND DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2003 AS UNITED STATES SEAGOING MARINES
7 MONTH.

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9 WHEREAS, seagoing marines have served aboard ships of the United States Navy from 1775 to 1998;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, for 223 years, the seagoing marines participated in every naval campaign and battle to
12 safeguard the freedom and liberty that all Montanans expect and enjoy today; and

13 WHEREAS, the USS Helena CL-50 was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese
14 attacked and, because the ship was in the berth normally assigned to the Pennsylvania, became a prime target,
15 but the ship survived the attack and later gave the Japanese occasion to regret their failure to destroy it; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1942, the USS Helena entered action in Guadalcanal, where the long and bloody battle
17 for the island was then beginning, and on September 15, 1942, with guns blazing, the USS Helena rescued
18 nearly 400 of the officers and crew of the Wasp (AV-7); and

19 WHEREAS, the USS Helena again saw action on October 11, 1942, in the Battle of Cape Esperance
20 in Iron Bottom Sound, protecting vital transports into Guadalcanal during which the USS Helena was the first
21 to engage the enemy and sank the cruiser Furutaka and the destroyer Fubuki; and

22 WHEREAS, the USS Helena saw action several times during the climactic Naval Battle of Guadalcanal
23 in November 1942, which the USS Helena witnessed from its beginning while escorting a supply echelon from
24 Espiritu Santo to Guadalcanal; and

25 WHEREAS, the USS Helena was assigned to several bombardments of Japanese positions on New
26 Georgia during January 1943, and the ship's guns rocked the enemy at Munda and Vila Stanmore, leveling vital
27 supply concentrations and gun emplacements; and

28 WHEREAS, USS Helena's intense and rapid-fire bombardment in support of troop landings during the
29 invasion of New Georgia made the ship a prime target, and it was hit by three Japanese torpedoes, which sank
30 the USS Helena; and

